

SOME STORIES OF THE OCCULT.

Prophecies of a Modern Pythoness—The Great French Wizard.

The taste for occult manifestations, once satisfied by spirit rapping, planchette, and ghostly manifestations, pondered to by ghost stories which are creating a furore, is after all only a revival. Forty years ago, in 1846, at the ultra refined literary receptions of Lady Blessington, a young French girl, introduced by a friend of the hostess, laid the foundation of her future reputation in fortune telling. It was Mlle. Le Normand, the modern pythoness. Lady Blessington, who had been informed by her Parisian correspondent of the miraculous gifts of her protégée, determined to try her before she could have become acquainted with any of the persons present, or even ascertain their names. Three men were successively brought to her. To the first after examining his hand she said: "Your life will be a happy and successful one; you will die old, without pain; but on one occasion you and one of your children will miraculously escape destruction." To the second: "It seems almost incredible, but I would say to you, in the words of Shakespeare, 'Thou wilt be king hereafter.' Yes, sir; you will reign." After gazing into the palm of the third, the young girl shivered, grew pale, and dropped his hand. Quickly rallying, she informed him that she had seen nothing worth repeating, and left his side. But the same night, before leaving, she implored Lady Blessington to distrust her guest, saying: "He will commit murder and be sentenced to death."

These three men were Charles Dickens, who, in 1844, returning from abroad, was in the horrible railway accident of Staplehurst, and escaped unhurt; the MS. of "Our Mutual Friend," his offspring, enclosed in a small hand-bag, was found upon the track amid the debris, and returned to the author. The second man was Prince Louis Napoleon. No commentary is needed. The third was Charles Wainwright, then a most promising painter, who afterward murdered his wife with the most revolting cruelty. He was condemned to death, but the queen commuted his sentence to transportation for life.

Desbarrolles, the great French wizard, has chosen this opportune moment to leave the world; sooner he might have passed away without even the slightest notice. He was not rich, having lost all his fortune in the failure of a bank, and because, as he said, "he had not dared to ask permission to examine the hand of the manager." He used to receive his clients in a room of dazzling brightness, with curtainless windows, the light coming in full from the sky, the gardens, and above the roofs. Desbarrolles laughingly exclaimed: "My attic is the anteroom of the constellations."

In 1865 a very young creole, Mlle. Autard de Bragard came to consult him. "Whom shall I marry?" "A man whose position will be universally envied." "A millionaire? A prince?" "Better still." Four years later the young girl became Mme. Ferdinand de Lesseps.—London Cor. New York Sun.

Glass Eating Not a New Trick.

Ten years ago I used to drop in occasionally at a little resort on Washington square, popular with journalists and artists. The chief frequenters of this place was a burly Swiss, who made a trade of setting up billiard tables. He spent most of his time here, and when he was out of money and credit used to earn his daily beer by chewing up and devouring broken glass, china and coal, for any one who would provide him with the necessary liquid to wash these indigestible things down. He claimed that these feats, far from injuring him, improved his digestion. He would take a piece of glass between his solid teeth, grind it up to splinters and swallow it. The thickest china came just as easy to him, and coals from the scuttle were child's play. I made him the hero of a newspaper sketch, and gained quite a reputation for invention by it. I believe I have also reason to fear that I killed my hero. So many people called on him to do my description justice that he developed from an amateur into a professional, and died in a couple of years, during the last of which, I am told, he lived entirely on china, glass, anthracite coal and lager.—New York News "Babbie."

Pierce and the Algebraic Problem.

Ex-President Franklin Pierce once taught in Oxford county. A problem in algebra was brought to Mr. Pierce by a scholar, with the request that he give aid in solving it. He took the problem and worked on it a long time, and, being unable to solve it, gave the scholar a lecture on perseverance and advised him to work it out himself. That night the young schoolmaster worked at his room until a very late hour on the problem, but without success. Finally in a sort of mental abstraction he got up and commenced pacing the room. While so doing he noticed a small closet near the side of a chimney, opening this and exploring its interior he found a torn and wrinkled piece of paper with figures on it. Taking it out he found that the figures on that piece of paper were the solution of the very problem which had perplexed him so greatly.—Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Money and a Decoration.

I know of a pianist who, at one of those small German courts, played one evening no less than nine pieces. At the end of the week he was asked which he would prefer, 200 marks (£10) or a present. He, imagining that the present would be a diamond pin, which he could show, said he left it to her highness to give him a suitable souvenir. And her highness, immensely pleased to see so much talent combined with so much disinterestedness, was graciously pleased to invite him to tea, et—voilà tout. But his misadventure bore good fruit, for another pianist to whom he told his story, and who also played at court, when he was asked whether he would prefer a decoration or 200 marks, replied: "A cross (of the order proposed) costs 15 or 16 marks, let us say 20. So give me the order and 200 marks, and we'll cry quits."—Temple Bar.

From the Carib Word "Amerie."

Jules Marcote, a French geographer and ethnologist, attempts to prove that the name of our continent is not derived from "America" Vesputi, but from the Carib word amerie, signifying a chain of steep hills. On the coast of Nicaragua there are several ridges of that name, which Columbus himself mentions in one of his reports from the harbor of Las Huertas, and which first was applied only to a small district of Central America. Vesputi's baptismal name was Alberigo, but a German map publisher, Martin Waldseemüller, mistook the already current geographical term for a tribute to the merits of the famous explorer, and proposed to extend its application to all the vast territories which the Spaniards themselves at first comprised under the collective name of Nueva Espana, or Las Indias Occidentales.—Chicago Times.

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NOTICE.

THE REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING of the Press Publishing Company will be held at its office, Merchant street, Friday, October 15th, at 9:30 a. m.
THOS. S. SOUTHWICK,
Secretary Press Publishing Co.
Honolulu, October 7th, 1886.

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THE DAILY HERALD.

To-day, September 1st, 1886, is issued the first number of THE DAILY HERALD, a morning newspaper, to be printed for the proprietor under contract by the "Press Publishing Company," Merchant street, Honolulu.

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DANIEL LOGAN,
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